

Changes to IPP licence terminations from 1 June 2026

Practice Advice Note

The Sentencing Act 2026, which received Royal Assent on 22 January 2026, introduced changes that affect those serving IPP and DPP sentences.

1. Changes to the qualifying period for first review of licence termination
2. Introduction of *Offender Initiated Termination Review*

These two changes come into force on 1 June 2026.

First Change - Qualifying Period for First Review

The qualifying period for first review of licence termination for an individual serving an IPP sentence is now **two-years** from their initial release. This is a reduction of one year for IPP cases to bring it in line with the qualifying period for DPP cases which remains two-years from their initial release.

The changes do not materially change how panels should approach the risk assessment for cases affected but the following information may be helpful.

Standalone IPP Licence Terminations

For all **standalone IPP licence termination cases (i.e. those in the community) already referred**, the individual will have reached the previous qualifying period of three years and should be progressed as swiftly as possible. There will also likely be an accompanying request to consider suspending supervision if the licence is not terminated.

The referrals for existing standalone IPP licence termination do not need to be amended as they do not currently specify any timeframe. For these cases, it is suggested that a statement along the following lines be included in the decision:

The panel has reviewed this IPP licence termination referral taking into account the Sentencing Act 2026 changes that came into force on 1 June 2026. The qualifying period for initial review of licence termination is now two years. Mr X is therefore already beyond the qualifying period.

If the panel decides not to terminate the licence, the individual may ask the Secretary of State to refer their case to the Board for a further review of licence termination **one year after the point at which they reached the qualifying period**. This is known as an *Offender Initiated Termination Review*. They can only apply if the Parole Board has not already terminated their licence and their licence has not been revoked during the one year since the end of the qualifying period.



For all **standalone IPP licence termination referrals made from 1 June 2026**, the individual will have reached (or already passed) the new two-year qualifying period. The Community Offender Manager (COM) is required to consider suspension of supervision in their termination reports.

There is a mandatory requirement for HMPPS to hold an IPP Progression Panel to consider both the termination of the licence and suspension of supervision. Discussions from the IPP Progression Panel should be reflected in the COM's report.

Standalone IPP licence termination referrals from 1 June 2026 will align with the new legislation. For these cases, it is suggested that a statement along the following lines be included in the decision:

The panel has reviewed this IPP licence termination referral taking into account the Sentencing Act 2026 changes that came into force on 1 June 2026. The qualifying period for initial review of licence termination is two years.

If the panel decides not to terminate the licence, the individual is eligible to apply for an additional review, known as an *Offender Initiated Termination Review* one year on from the date of the qualifying period. Where the licence at this further review is not terminated, it will progress for a further year until the automatic termination point is reached (provided there is no recall during that year).

Review of Recall Cases

Cases currently referred where the individual has been returned to custody and has already reached the previous qualifying period of three years should be progressed as swiftly as possible. They are already eligible to be considered for unconditional re-release.¹

Panels should note that if re-released on licence, the licence will be automatically terminated after two years (provided there is no recall during those two years). However, there is now an opportunity for an *Offender Initiated Termination Review* after one year on licence (provided there is no recall during that year).

All cases currently referred where the individual has been returned to custody but has NOT yet reached the previous qualifying period of three years now has an additional placeholder added to the end of the existing dossier on PPUD labelled '*Amended SSJ Referral to be considered from 1 June*'. The original referral will remain in the dossier. **We understand that there are 934 cases that have the new placeholder added.**

Panels are asked to check their current IPP recall cases to see if any now fall into scope of these changes. The new placeholder in the dossier does not indicate the case is yet in scope.

¹ Unconditional re-release from custody has the same effect as terminating the licence for an offender in the community.

Where a case becomes eligible for the new qualifying period, panels will need to consider that where the Codified Public Protection Test is met, they will now need to determine if re-release should be on licence or whether **the additional option to re-release unconditionally** is appropriate.

The referral for all IPP recall cases from 1 June 2026 will reflect the new legislation and panels will need to determine if the case has reached the new qualifying period and is eligible to be considered for unconditional re-release.

Panels should be mindful that an individual may become eligible during the course of the parole review and should check to see if the qualifying period of two years since initial release will be reached before a decision is made. If so, the panel will need to consider the individual for unconditional re-release as part of their assessment.

Panels should not direct unconditional re-release unless the qualifying period has been reached. If it is unclear, then panels should ask the case manager to ascertain the position.

HMPPS Practitioner Guidance

HMPPS has produced a *Good Practice Guidance for IPP/DPP licence terminations*.

The key points are:

- If managed under MAPPA, the COM should have consulted with relevant agencies
- The COM should have contacted the VLO

The COM's report needs to lay out all the evidence and be clear about:

- analysis of the key issues
- how the individual has progressed during this period in the community
- the views from the most recent IPP Progression Panel
- recommendation on whether the licence should be terminated (if in the community) or re-released unconditionally (if back in custody).
- recommendation on whether supervision should be suspended or if any changes are needed to licence conditions to manage the risk presented by the individual should the licence remain in place

The report must be shared with the individual who is given seven days to add their own representations before the referral is made to the Board.

The IPP licence termination report template has been updated to take account of the changes: *Consideration for termination of IPP/DPP licence report* template

HMPPS has sent a letter to those who are in prison and serving an IPP sentence to explain the changes.

Second Change - Offender Initiated Termination Request

Those in the community on an IPP or DPP licence now have the entitlement to apply for an additional referral to the Board one year after the end of the qualifying period.

This is known as an *Offender Initiated Termination Request*.

The one year will commence from the date the individual reached the legislative qualifying point and **not** the date the Board made its decision. Some applications may therefore be received in less than 12 months from the previous decision.

Individuals can only apply if they are in the community and have not been recalled back to prison during the 12-month period since they reached the qualifying period.

This is an optional referral, meaning the individual does not have to apply if they do not want to.

If they do wish to apply, they must complete an application form which is available on GOV.uk: *Request for further consideration of IPP/DPP licence*

An information sheet has been produced: *Information sheet for offenders on IPP/DPP licence*

Where an application is made, it must be sent directly to PPCS who will request a report from the COM to be provided within four weeks.

The COM report will need to include all the information as for an initial report but include an additional section summarising progress since the previous consideration of termination. If supervision is still in place there may be a recommendation to suspend it. If supervision was suspended at the previous review, details of any voluntary contact with the Probation Service and any concerns should be included; if there has been an escalation of risk, there may be a recommendation to re-impose supervision.

An IPP Progression Panel for further consideration of termination is not mandated but COMs will consider whether convening one would be beneficial, particularly if there have been new and significant changes.

The individual will have time to submit further representations where they can respond to points raised by the COM before the referral is made to the Board.

The PPCS will make an *Offender Initiated Termination Request* referral. There is no sifting of applications, and all applications will be referred, irrespective of their likelihood of success.

HMPPS has produced a *Good practice guidance – further consideration for termination of IPP/DPP licence reports*.

A new template has been produced for these applications: *Further consideration for termination of IPP/DPP licence report* template.

HMPPS has produced an information sheet for staff about *Offender Initiated Termination Requests*.

Other Points

Suspension of Supervision

The Sentencing Act 2026 also introduces the expectation that COMs will assess suitability for suspension of supervision where the individual has completed two years of continuous trouble-free resettlement and good behaviour in the community.

This means that any requests to suspend supervision will come in at the first point at which the licence is also considered for termination.

HMPPS has produced guidance for staff on the frequency of supervision, the involvement of IPP Progression Panels and both suspension of supervision and termination of the licence: *Supervision of People Subject to Sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP)*.

Reconsideration of Decisions

There have been no changes to the eligibility for reconsideration. All decisions made about terminating IPP licences are subject to the reconsideration mechanism.

Decisions about IPP licence terminations are not eligible for setting aside.

Automatic Licence Termination

If the Board does not terminate a licence at the end of the qualifying period or following an *Offender Initiated Termination Request*:

- The licence will end automatically following two continuous years in the community, without being recalled, starting from the date they first became eligible for referral to the Parole Board for licence termination.
- If an individual is recalled at any time during the two-year automatic period, the clock resets. They will need to complete two full years in the community from the point of re-release for the licence to end automatically (unless the Secretary of State disappplied the recall in which case the automatic termination will be sooner).

Multiple Sentences

Any individual also serving a life sentence is not eligible to have their IPP or DPP licence terminated at any point.

Where an individual is subject to a separate non-parole determinate sentence and the IPP or DPP licence is terminated, they will only be subject to the active non-parole determinate sentence and a new determinate licence must be issued by HMPPS.

HMPPS has produced guidance for staff: *Information sheet for HMPPS staff about processing cases where an IPP/DPP licence is terminated but the offender is serving a separate determinate sentence.*

Further Advice

Panels should follow the current guidance on IPPs which includes a chapter on licence terminations: [IPP Guidance](#).

All of the HMPPS documents mentioned above will be uploaded here, once they have been officially published: [IPP Resources](#).

If you have questions or queries, please contact:
Legal&PracticeQueries@paroleboard.gov.uk